THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that as laid down in the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, RRBs finance target groups in rural areas. Keeping in view the role of RRBs in purveying credit to the weaker sections, Government has decided to retain the identity and character of RRBs. However, to sustain the positive role played by the banks, the Government, NABARD and the sponsor banks are continually monitoring the performance of RRBs and remedial measures are taken to improve their performance and eliminate their financil weaknesses. Certain specific measures to improve the earning capacity of RRBs, such as expansion in the scope of tractor financing, removal of ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh on individual loan limit for financing transport vehicles, increase in the individual loan eligibility under the composite loan scheme for non-farm activities from Rs. 30,000 to 50,000 etc. have been taken.

[*English*]

Reopening of Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi

1765. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to reopen the Ajudhia Textile Mill's Delhi under National Textile Corporationn

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to protect the workers from unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Ajudhia Textile Mills of National Textile Corporation Limited is not closed.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Role of Private Financial Companies

1766. SHRI RUP CHAND PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made by the Government on the role played by the private financial companies in our economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some officials of public sector financial institutions and banks have been found directly or indirectly involved in many of these financial companies;

(d) if so, the details there of and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). No specific study has been made by the Government on the role played by private financial companies in the economy. The Narasimham Committe on the Financial System has, however, made certain recommendations for laying down prudential norms and guidelines for non-banking financial intermediaries.

(c) to (e). Reserve Bank of India have no specific information in this regard.

Prices of Coffee Seeds and Powder

1767. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board has substantially increased the prices of Coffee